

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE SENATORS DENY ABORTION LAW

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — The Argentina Senate defeated a bill Aug. 9 that would have permitted elective abortions during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. Argentina's Chamber of Deputies had approved the legislation in June. The South American country currently prohibits abortions, with exceptions. Pro-abortion forces expressed their unhappiness over the defeat. "[W]omen will not retreat," said Giselle Carino, western hemisphere regional director for the International Planned Parenthood Federation. "We stand firmly and in solidarity with all women until forced pregnancies become a thing of the past," she said.

DEVIL STATUE PLACED AT ARK. STATE CAPITOL

LITTLE ROCK, AR. (BP) — Massachusetts-based The Satanic Temple erected a statue of Baphomet, a goat-headed, winged depiction of the devil, on the Arkansas State Capitol grounds in Little Rock on Aug. 16 to protest the Ten Commandments monument already placed there. "If you're going to have one religious monument up then it should be open to others..." said Satanic Arkansas cofounder Ivy Forrester, a rally organizer, according to Associated Press. The 7.5-foot-tall statue, which also depicts children admiring Baphomet, was removed because of state law requiring legislative sponsorship.

TEBOW ADDS NEW TITLE WITH UPCOMING MOVIE

NASHVILLE (BP) — College and professional football star Tim Tebow, noted for his devout Christianity, is serving as an executive producer for the faith-based movie, Run the Race, that tells the fictional story of two brothers who are high school athletes and see their relationship tested when they choose different paths. The movie stars Mykelti Williamson (Forrest Gump) as the brothers' coach; Frances Fisher (Unforgiven) as their surrogate mother; Tanner Strue (NCIS) as Zach; and Evan Hofer (Kickin' It) as David. No release date has been set.



ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP — Mississippi Baptists gathered for Leadership U, previously known as Growing Churches, enjoy a pre-conference meal at Macedonia Church, Lincoln Association, on the evening of Aug. 9. Members of Macedonia Church and First Church, Brookhaven, prepared the meal for participants. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Leadership U packs dual venues

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Leadership U, the annual conference previously known as Growing Churches, overflowed host facilities Macedonia Church, Lincoln Association, on Aug. 9 and on Oct. 10 at First Church, Brookhaven,

also in Lincoln Association, with nearly 500 participants from 78 churches, 18 Baptist associations, and three states.

"There was no negative feedback. Stanton Church in Adams Association brought 30 people. They said Leadership U will do as much to rejuvenate their church as anything they have been to. Steve Purvis

is their pastor," said Marcus Peagler, director of discipleship and family ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department organized the conference with the assistance of a steering

see LEADERSHIP on p. 6

Leaders learn 7 Laws of the Learner



Steve Keyes (left) of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries in Atlanta and pastor of Crossroads Community Church in Greenville, S.C., leads the 7 Laws of the Learner seminar Aug. 4 at First Church, Clinton. In addition to the Clinton location, 7 Laws of the Learner was conducted at First Church, Tupelo, on July 28, and Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, on Aug. 18. Keyes, who taught participants the effective delivery of instructional techniques in religious settings, has been a lecturer/presenter with Walk Thru the Bible Ministries for 33 years. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Greear reacts to Catholic sex abuse

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP) — A Pennsylvania grand jury's recent report alleging unprecedented levels of sexual abuse and cover-up by Roman Catholic clergy has drawn reaction from Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President J.D. Greear.



GREEAR

Southern Baptists should respond to the report by taking all steps necessary to eradicate sexual abuse "from within our community," he told Baptist Press (BP).

Greear announced in July he would form a Sexual Abuse Prevention Study Group. "We grieve over this report from the grand jury. The safety and healing for victims is paramount.

"I also recognize that this is not an isolated problem. We must ask ourselves what bold steps need to be taken in eradicating this horrific sin from within our community. Over the last several weeks, I have heard from many

see GREEAR on p. 7

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Our proudest moments?

You may have noticed we are on the verge of Football Season 2018. Anyone with a newspaper subscription, television set, radio receiver, or Internet connection can't help but be inundated.

I'm not talking about the actual play on the field, which has essentially become a minor, inconsequential part of it all. I'm talking about the master marketing strokes that will stretch the next six months into an American cultural extravaganza and source of international fascination. Then there are the controversies.

It's come a long way since the days when the "AFL-NFL World Championship Game," as the first two Super Bowls were known, couldn't sell out the Los Angeles Coliseum at \$12 per ticket and a college band or two performed at halftime. Now we have giant stadiums filled with fanatics and offering impressive team assemblages of convict/athletes, deadbeat dads, trash talkers, abusers of women, and America haters — all excused for their football prowess.

There are the self-absorbed talking heads on ubiquitous sports cable channels providing 24-hour coverage of the big shows; the inscrutable, multi-million-dollar commercials during the games; the nouveau riche in their fancy stadium sky boxes; the shirtless, raving maniacs with painted chests in the cheap seats, and national anthem kneelers.

Football Season hysteria each year is a near-perfect reflection of modern American culture, isn't it? Shouldn't it make us all walk a little taller knowing that billions of people worldwide will tune in to these perverse snapshots of our country?

Doesn't it make one burst with pride to know all those people will be watching the near-constant glorification of alcohol overconsumption along with wardrobe malfunctions, phallic-shaped musical instruments, tributes to anarchists who want to destroy this country, and assorted other general vulgarities?

It's not just football, and it's not just sports in general. We point with pride and flock to art exhibitions that showcase a crucifix submerged in urine, and a likeness of the mother of Christ covered with elephant manure. We sit hour after mesmerizing hour in front of our televisions and movie screens, absorbing coarse behavior, scatological humor, and double entendres about body parts and sexual habits, all in thrilling high definition and booming stereo surround sound.

It should be little wonder that the rest of the world has no respect for the United States. How could they? We have become a country of flabby, aimless pagans who are committed to nothing more than amusement for brief periods through the lowest possible forms of entertainment. So what if a few malcontents want to kneel in disrespect during the national anthem — which, by the way, will be cut out this year at the beginning of games broadcast by the many iterations of the ESPN sports network.

The Romans are remembered in part for such extravagant indulgences in the last years of their existence. Like Americans of today, the Romans allowed themselves to become the disinterested and unsophisticated inhabitants of the most educated and powerful nation in the world. They comported themselves in this manner until there was nothing left and the Barbarians, finding no one interested in challenging them, simply walked across unguarded borders and into the Roman heartland.

It doesn't have to be that way today. Change can start with the power of one person, humbling himself/herself in repentance and praying to the one true God for delivery. One person standing up for what is right and resisting the depravity of the world. One person, striving every day of life, every second of life, to honor Jesus Christ. That's the power of one.

Lord, please send revival and let it be soon.

Dear College Freshman:

Your life is literally about to change. As you go off to college, you are about to take one of the biggest steps of your life so far.

Do you remember when you learned to ride a bicycle? You likely had a parent running beside you, holding on and encouraging you as you wobbled your way down the street. Your parent nervously turned loose and let you go on your own. They were so excited for you and so nervous, all at the same time!

That is where your parents are right now as you head off to college. For 18 years or so, they have been there beside you, helping you and holding on to you. Now it's time for them to turn loose, but it is not an easy thing to do. I know. I've had to do it three times.

As you get ready to leave for college there are two things that I want to encourage you to take with you.

Don't forget your toothbrush

Brushing your teeth is one of those "life lessons" you learn when you are young. Your parents taught you how to brush your teeth, and now you have to follow through with what you have learned. That's true with most of the things they have taught you in the last 18 years.

As a college freshman, you will likely have more freedom than you have ever known. With that new freedom comes the temptation to see how close you can get to the edge without going too far. You will have many opportunities to test what you believe and to decide for yourself how you are going to live your life.

There's a good chance your roommate, your boyfriend or girlfriend, or the people with whom you run around will push you to try things you know are wrong. As you wrestle with those decisions, don't forget your toothbrush! Don't forget what you have learned from your parents, or others, about how to live a life that honors God.

Proverbs 1:8 gives us this counsel: "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and don't reject your mother's teaching." As you start making your own decisions in life, filter those decisions through the lessons you have been taught. It may save you some heartache in the future.



Guest opinion
with Kevin Shorter

Take a penny with you

We've all done some pretty dumb things in our lives, things we regret and sometimes can't explain. That's why you need to take a penny with you, because your life is like a penny in this way: You can spend it any way you want, but you can only spend it once. Too many students go off to college to change the world, but the world ends up changing them.

I taught a freshman course at a nearby Christian university, and the one thing I tried to teach my students was this: You are going to make choices over the next four years that will determine the kind of person you become, so choose wisely.

There is a verse in the Bible, Ephesians 5:15, that could keep you from making decisions that you will regret for a lifetime: "Pay careful attention, then, to how you live — not as unwise people but as wise."

You only get one freshman year, so pay careful attention to how you live it. Take a shiny 2018 penny with you to college. Put it where you will see it from time to time and remember these words: You can spend your life any way that you want, but you can only spend it once.

That great theologian, Dr. Seuss, said it like this: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You are on your own, and you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."

These are some of the best days of your life. Enjoy the journey, but choose wisely!

Shorter is pastor of Mt. Airy Church in Easley, S.C., and immediate past president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

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Aretha Franklin commemorated for gospel beginnings

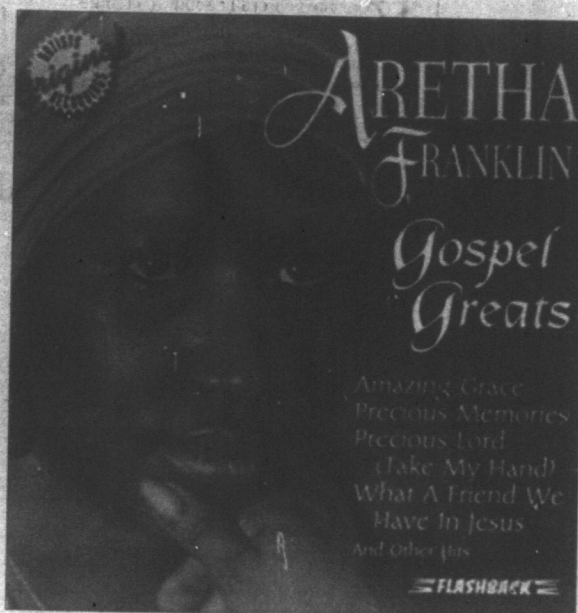
DETROIT (BP and local reports) — From the submissive surrender of her rendition of *Amazing Grace* to the womanly exclamations of her secular hit *Respect* and other provocative hits, the late "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin is widely remembered for the gospel music foundations she learned at the Baptist church in Detroit pastored by her father C.L. Franklin, a native of Shelby, Ms.

New Bethel Church was the non-Southern Baptist congregation where Aretha Franklin grew up singing in the choir and performing solos, and where her death Aug. 16 at age 76 of advanced pancreatic cancer was deeply grieved.

Her Franklin popularity in African American gospel predates her first album at age 14 titled, *Amazing Grace*, but "gospel music influenced her more than she influenced gospel music," Southern Baptist pastor Marshall Ausberry told Baptist Press.

Ausberry, pastor of Antioch Church in Fairfax, Va., leads the National African American Fellowship of nearly 4,000 Southern Baptist congregations.

"[She] was a child of the church. She had that authentic deep gospel sound that was rooted in her from the church," Ausberry said. "She sang in the church choir up to the age of nine and from the age of nine to 18 she recorded gospel music. Then at around 18 she began to record secular music, but never forgetting her gospel roots."



Mark Croston, who works with many African American congregations in his leadership post with LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, believes Aretha, Franklin's "soulful and spiritual sounds" will likely remain an inspiration for ages.

"I have almost 100 songs by Aretha Franklin in my library," said Croston, LifeWay's national director of black and western church partnerships. "She blazed trails, crossed [cultures] and climbed the ladder of success,

always remembering and drawing strength from the roots of her Christian faith, nurtured at the New Bethel Baptist Church."

Franklin's late father encouraged Aretha in her music while he pastored New Bethel Church from 1946 until his retirement in 1979. Known as the man with the million-dollar voice, he first delivered his famous sermon, *The Eagle Stirreth Her Nest*, in 1953. The sermon was added to the National Registry of the U.S. Library of Congress in 2010.

"She blazed trails, crossed [cultures] and climbed the ladder of success, always remembering and drawing strength from the roots of her Christian faith, nurtured at the New Bethel Baptist Church."

Mark Croston

LifeWay

Aretha Franklin's late mother Barbara Siggers Franklin also was a gospel singer.

Ausberry recalls being introduced to Aretha Franklin's music during his childhood by an older brother who had nearly all of her albums.

"I remember her soulfulness exuding through her voice as she sang *Respect*; *The House That Jack Built*; *I Say a Little Prayer*; and a host of other songs and oh, could she sing *Amazing Grace*," Ausberry said.

"Every time I would hear her sing, I would just feel the spirit within her. There was a deep soulfulness about her that moved her audiences. Aretha Franklin had that certain sound of the trumpet! Unmistakably gospel!"

Bill Carpenter, author of *Uncolored Days: The Gospel Music Encyclopedia*, told Religion News Service that Aretha Franklin is "one of the few artists who is univisally accepted in the black church... The church often shuns artists who sing R&B as backsliders and rejects them when they come back and sing gospel. However, Aretha's always been given a pass."

In Ausberry's words, Aretha

Franklin's "gospel roots were evidenced in her improvisational style. She did not just sing the words on a page, she exuded authentic emotional experience that her audience could identify with in their own lives. That is gospel music!"

She often sang *Amazing Grace* during her secular career and sang other Gospel selections and hymns on the international stage. She sang at the memorial service of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and the inauguration of the first African American president of the U.S., Barack Obama.

"She brought what was in her naturally and poured it out from the depth of her soul," Ausberry said. "While some artists are only a flash in the pan, Aretha was timeless, because she was authentically soulful."

Her award-winning 1999 album entitled *Gospel Greats*, included such beloved selections as *Amazing Grace*; *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*; *Mary Don't You Weep*; and *Give Yourself to Jesus*; and was essentially a rerelease of the 1972 *Amazing Grace* album.

SoCal Crusade billboards removed, prompting show of Bibles at event

ANAHEIM, Calif. (BP and local reports) — After promotional materials for the Aug. 17-19 SoCal Harvest crusade in Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Ca., were taken down from two Southern California malls because they showed Southern Baptist pastor Greg Laurie holding a Bible, Laurie asked attendees of the event to hold up their Bibles in a show of support for God's Word.

"Apparently, in our intolerant culture, we no longer can display the Bible in public," Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Ca., wrote in an Aug. 17 op-ed for the Los Angeles Times.

"The art in question was a tribute to my hero and mentor, the late Rev. Billy Graham, who often lifted the Bible high over his head as he preached to stadiums full of people.

"We hold the Bible high, just like Billy did, because it has changed our lives. The same is true for millions of other people; and it has been true for centuries... and yet, here we are, having to tiptoe around some who find it offensive."

Irvine Company pulled the billboards promoting SoCal Harvest from the company's malls in Irvine, Ca., and Orange County, Ca. The billboards provoked complaints, according to news media reports, including a "serious threat."

Harvest redesigned the billboards' artwork to exclude the Bible — which did not have any writing or religious symbols on it in the first place — but that didn't resolve Irvine Company's objections, CBN News reported.

Laurie's Harvest organiza-

tion was refunded payments when the billboards were taken down.

An identical billboard in The Galleria at Tyler mall in Riverside, Ca., which is owned by a separate company, remained on display, according to CBS' Los Angeles affiliate KCAL-TV.

The #StandWithTheBible campaign launched Aug. 11 with a tweet by Laurie, and asked people to post on social media photos or videos of themselves holding a Bible with the campaign hashtag.

"I'm offended by things I see all the time — in malls, things I see in billboards — but I'm not out to boycott or stop people from having that art displayed, especially if they paid for it," Laurie told KCAL.

During SoCal Harvest's 29 years of existence, more than



NOT WELCOME — Billboards advertising Southern Baptist pastor Greg Laurie's recent SoCal Harvest crusade in southern California were removed from two privately-owned Southern California malls, following complaints they were offensive and the alleged reception of a "serious threat." (Screen capture from Twitter)

half a million professions of faith in Christ have been registered, Laurie wrote in an Aug. 7 blog post.

Laurie has partnered with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., for the past two years to hold Harvest America

crusades in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting.

This year's partnership prior to June's SBC 2018 annual meeting in Dallas yielded more than 3,000 salvation decisions from in-person and online attendees.

A meeting was going to be taking place at one of our churches. I ran into a friend who was on the way to the meeting and asked him if he was going to lead the singing. "No," he said, "I'm not a song leader. I'm not a leader of the group. I'm just mostly a 'show-er upper.' That's one of the things I do best. I show up." Now, he's an extremely humble man but I can tell you one thing for certain: show-er uppers are wonderful people and they are terrific to have in your church.

Truthfully, if it wasn't for show-er uppers in our churches, there would be a lot missing. **The characteristic of a show-er upper is they're faithful.** I mean, real faithful. They are not just show-er uppers on special occasions, not just there because they like the speaker or someone who is going to be singing or something else that tweaks their fancy. They faithfully do what they are capable of doing, and that is showing up.

Faithfulness is a tremendous thing. Some people think they're faithful because they're about as faithful as a broken watch. As you well know, even a broken watch is right twice a day — but show-er uppers? They make a difference because of their faithfulness. In John 6 Jesus had just performed His largest miracle ever: the feeding of the 5,000 plus the women and children who were there. Then as Jesus challenged the people to give everything to the Lord and let the Lord invade every part of their lives, they started to go away. Jesus asked his disciples, "Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord to whom shall



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"Show-er Upper"

we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:67-68). Faithful. While other people go away, the faithful stay. In truth, the disciples at this point were show-er uppers.

Show-er uppers are not only faithful; they are foundational. So many things they provide in the Kingdom work help build a solid foundation for everything else we try to do. They give. They attend. They participate. They go. They encourage. They are foundational to the existence of the Kingdom of God. The Lord looks to these folks. When He called Simon, He said, "I am going to name you Peter, the Rock. And upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:16-18). The very solid foundation of people who know Jesus creates an unshakeable foundation of faith and hope.

The show-er uppers are also futuristic. They are not just stuck in the past, bogged down in what used to be. They touch the world today. They show up now. They witness in the moment and wonderfully they do make a difference. They are show-er uppers.

It could be said that Jesus was a show-er upper. I know He did so many marvelous things, but one of the things He did was show up. Let me just point out to you in Matthew 17 it says that Jesus took His disciples Peter, James, and John up on a mountain and there He was transfigured before them and the glory of God was seen in Jesus. "And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid" (Matt. 17:7). There was a moment of instant nobility. They had seen Jesus work. They had heard Him teach but on this day, the splendor of the glory of God

was seen by them and they knew that He was someone like no one they had ever seen. At that moment, all He did was become one of the show-er uppers.

Another time that He was a show-er upper was in Mark 1:14. It says that He came, the show-er upper, to Galilee preaching the Good News of the Kingdom. The incredible news was unleashed on the world by Jesus, the show-er upper. Then in John 11:17, such a familiar passage of Scripture, Jesus came to the grave of Lazarus, His dear friend. There, He discovered that Lazarus had been in the grave four days, and the show-er upper is faced with impossible needs. For Mary and Martha, life could not be worse. Their brother was dead and buried, Jesus got there late, surely nothing could be done, but the impossible needs are going to be affected by the show-er upper.

These verses and many others record for us what is true of Jesus throughout the Gospels: Jesus the show-er upper still comes to you and me. I don't know what is the need in your life, but I know that all of us have those incredible moments when we desperately need a word from God, a work from God, the wonder of God among us. He shows up. Would you this very day not only allow the Lord to come and be a show-er upper in your life, but commit to being one of those people in your church, in your circle of friends, in your home who is found faithful, showing up to be what God wants you to be?

The author can be contacted at
directions@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **New Hope Church, Tupelo:** 170th homecoming, Aug. 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Rick Blythe, speaker; Brent Sanders, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor; Jacob Worley, youth pastor.

► **Euclatubba Church, Safford:** Homecoming, Aug. 26; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by pot-luck lunch; Jim Manley, speaker; Larry Dean Hutcheson and Wesley Rushing, music; Scott Witcher, pastor.

► **Siloam Church, Magee:** 125th homecoming, Aug. 26; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Johnny Sykes, speaker; Hilmer Bynum, music director; Siloam Church Family, special music; Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.

Billy Morehead, professor of accountancy in the **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** School of Business, has been recognized by the Association of Government Accountants for outstanding service as the inaugural chair of its Higher Education Committee. The Greenville native was honored with the group's 2018 National President's Award.



College News

In other College News:

► Mark Hughes recently earned a national honor for his work as a **Mississippi College** enrollment leader. The honor for the MC administrator came at a summer conference of the National Association of Baptist Enrollment Professionals. Organized nearly two decades ago, the group supports enrollment officials at 19 institutions across the nation. Members include Dallas Baptist University, Samford, Baylor, William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi College, Houston Baptist University and Louisiana College. Receiving the Trent Argo Memorial Award reflects MC's enrollment successes involving a superb team on the Clinton campus, Hughes said. He picked up the award at the association's July 16-18 meetings at Missouri Baptist University.

BIBL iO C i P H E R

Z VXQR JDC CD VXGG CER IZOECRDMN

WMC NZJJRN CD IRLRJCXJVR.

GMFR KZSR: CEZICH-CAD

Clue: Q = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 4:24

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

MS POSITIONS

JERICO BAPTIST CHURCH, A SMALL RURAL CHURCH, LOCATED IN UNION COUNTY, MS, IS SEARCHING FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR. Resumes may be mailed to Fredrick Owen, 1052 County Road 175, Gun-town, MS 38849 or E-mailed to FCOwen@bellsouth.net.

DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR— Please email resume to drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com or U.S. mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Persons interested may email resume to Corey Myers at cmeyers913@gmail.com or mail to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn: Corey Myers. Position description available upon request. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2018.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR — BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH. Located at Meridian, MS in the Whynot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

FIRST BAPTIST OF GREENVILLE IS SEARCHING FOR A FULL TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS. All interested candidates please submit your resume to malexander@fbcgreenville.net.

RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, MS, SEEKING A PART TIME YOUTH PASTOR. Email resume to jhomers56@hotmail.com.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Unity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459. Or you may email them to ubc.resumes@yahoo.com. Either should be designated as Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

CAREY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH MT. PLEASANT, MS IS SEEKING A STUDENT MINISTER. Please email resume to cmalone7722@att.net. Or mail to Carey Chapel Baptist Church, 170 Carey Chapel RD, Red Banks, MS 38661.

RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN RURAL LEE COUNTY, MS, NEAR TUPELO IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PRAISE TEAM LEADER/MUSIC MINISTER. Email resume to baptistworshipleader@gmail.com.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 23, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

REVELATION

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW

8.3.18 - Blue Mountain College
9.11.18 - Garaywa Camp & Conference Center
9.13.18 - William Carey University

Register online at www.mbc.org/jbs to receive a 50% discount on the purchase of your leader guide. You will receive your book at the event.

For more info, contact the Sunday School/Small Groups Department at elindigrin@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3292.

MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE

10.29.18 | First Baptist Church, Jackson

Speaker: Lisa Rippy



IF YOU'RE THE WIFE OF A...

- Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- Campus Minister
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- Minister of Administration
- Minister of Music
- Missionary
- Youth Minister
- Any minister with our MS Southern Baptist Churches and entities

... THEN THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU!

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department.
More information coming soon!

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

MISSISSIPPI

ISAIAH 5:9A

Tell this People

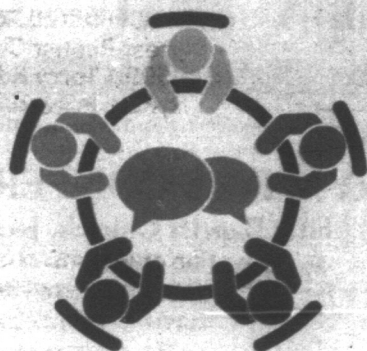
VALUES OF THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

- Sharpens our focus on mission needs in Mississippi, and trains leaders to respond evangelistically.
- Adds valuable funding to mission networks and leaders who are prepared to work in Mississippi.
- Encourages churches to become more involved in calling and sending Mississippi missionaries.
- Enlarges our witness in Mississippi by adding new churches. Two million of our neighbors are not actively participating in church.

2018 GOAL: \$2,100,000

Contact Mission Strategy at 601-292-3231 or e-mail bbridges@mbcb.org for more information.

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Bivocational Ministries Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2018

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Skyroom | Baptist Building

Contact Greg Barker at 601-292-3307 for more information.

2018 COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE



"Seek first His kingdom..."
Matthew 6:33

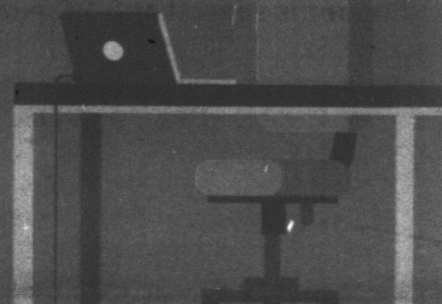
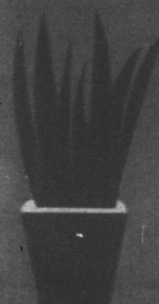
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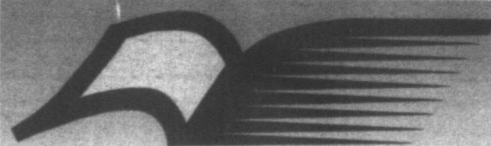
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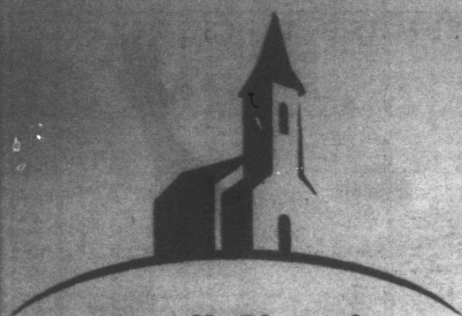
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Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.

AUGUST 23, 2018
Parkway Baptist Church
117 Sgt. Prentiss Dr.
Natchez, MS 39120

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
New Palestine Baptist Church
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Picayune, MS 39466

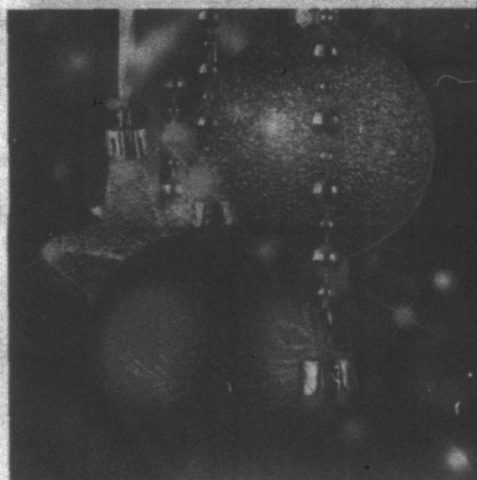
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
Ackerman Baptist Church
185 E. Cherry St.
Ackerman, MS 39735

OCTOBER 25, 2018
Forest Baptist Church
439 E. 1st St.
Forest, MS 39074

NOVEMBER 6, 2018
First Baptist Church
520 W. Fox Ave.
Eupora, MS 39744

NOVEMBER 8, 2018
Hillcrest Baptist Church
5950 Terry Rd.
Byram, MS 39272

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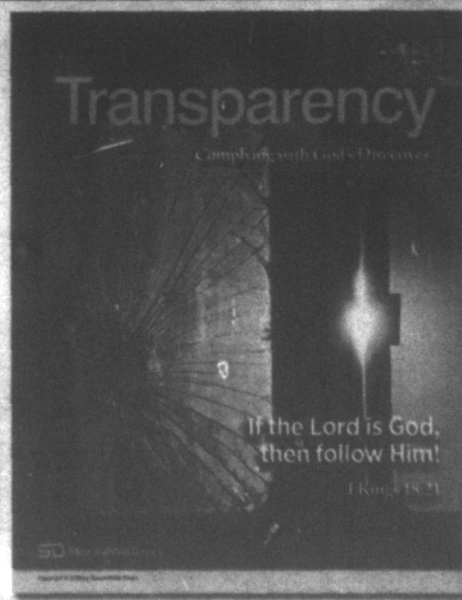
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1 Kings 18:21

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Mother/Daughter Weekends

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☐ **November 2-3, 2018**

Deadline to Register is October 17

☐ **November 9-10, 2018**

Deadline to Register is October 24

Mother/Daughter Overnights are for moms (and mom substitutes) and their daughters in Grades 1-6.

Schedule:

5:00 p.m. on Friday until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost:

\$55 per person

For more information, contact the WMU/WMI at tbaldwin@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3317.



2018 Auditions for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th Graders involved in the music ministry of Mississippi Southern Baptist Churches

REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE AUDITION!

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Columbia

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018
1:30-4:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Long Beach

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Fairview Baptist Church
Columbus

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018
4:00-7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Meridian

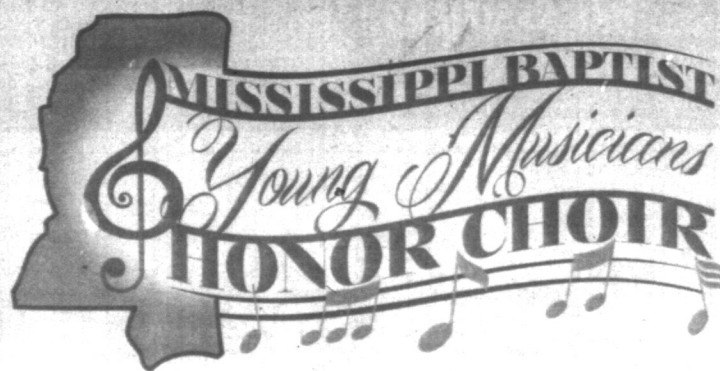
OCTOBER 13, 2018
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Belden Baptist Church
Belden

OCTOBER 14, 2017
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Belden Baptist Church
Belden

OCTOBER 20, 2018
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

OCTOBER 21, 2018
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Baptist Building
Jackson

For more information, contact the Church Music Department at cwtaylor@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3267.



April 6-7, 2019

Location announcement coming soon!

VIDEO Auditions for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir have begun as of August 1, 2018, for children in grades 4-6. The deadline for videos is November 15. Videos may be submitted by e-mail or text.

Contact the Church Music Department at 601-292-3272 or wsouth@mbcb.org for more information.

HOUSE TOPS

Is defib machine good investment? Ask this pastor

WESTWOOD, Ky. (BP) — Two years ago pastor Mike Rice was approached by two women members of the church he leads about placing a cardiac defibrillator in the church building.

"We had a senior deacon who had some episodes, but I sure never knew I'd be the first one to need it," Rice said.

His last sermon could have been June 10. That's the evening Rice, age 66, collapsed while concluding his sermon. Although he had been diagnosed with heart disease and had cardiac bypass surgery in 2003, Rice didn't have a heart attack that day. His heart just stopped beating. His breathing halted, too.

In a matter of seconds, several people rushed to the stage at Fairview Church in Westwood, Ky., including physician Ish Stevens who was at the pastor's side with the machine, or AED, that was purchased for the church two years ago.

"Ish said I was finishing up," Rice said. "I don't remember. All I know is what I was told."

Stevens, who had first thought the diabetic Rice had blacked out because of low sugar, administered the machine to the pastor. Jo Cathey, a nurse in a hospital cardiology department in nearby Ashland, was also on the scene.

"When she saw me, she said, 'He's gone. I've seen this before,'" Rice said.

Stevens shocked Rice's heart. "I slapped it on him and gave him a jolt," the M.D. said. "He flopped like a fish."

The volunteer fire department, which was across the street and conducting some training at that very moment, rushed over and used an apparatus that restarted Rice's breathing — but he had gone nearly eight minutes without oxygen.

"Three minutes can cause brain damage," Rice said.

The pastor was rushed to an Ashland hospital where he was put on a ventilator in the intensive care unit. His body temperature was medically lowered.

It was touch-and-go for several days, and few thought he would survive. His family — wife Lisa, daughter Elisha, and son Seth — never left his side. Elisha, who lives in Michigan, gave daily and sometimes twice daily updates on Facebook.

"She was optimistic the whole time," Rice said. "Elisha was perfect for [updating Facebook]" as Fairview members and the entire community prayed for the pastor's recovery from the heart stoppage and an ensuing bout with pneumonia.

Two months later, he was preaching again. Last Sunday, Rice thanked the church and the many others who had prayed for him. They also recognized the volunteer fire

department and medical personnel in the service.

"I'm still hearing from people in the community, and most of them never met me," Rice said. "The postal carrier stopped me and said he was praying for me. A lady in a restaurant said she was following it on Facebook. Every day I meet someone who prayed for me."

Doctors who looked at his charts call him "a miracle," because it's unexplainable how he could have lived through the episode without brain damage.

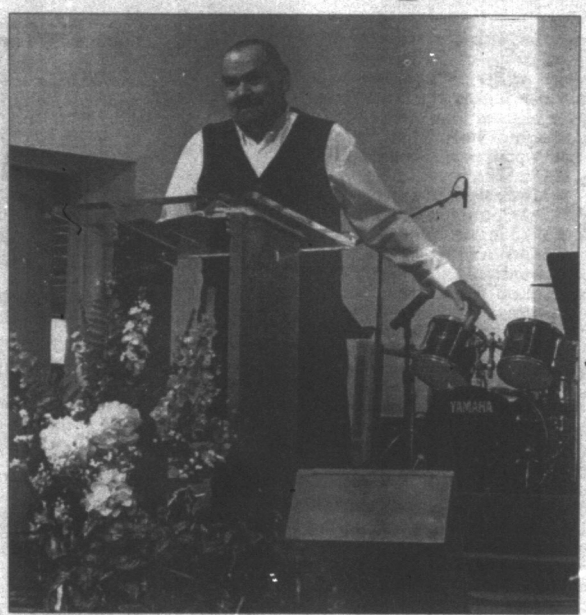
When he was beginning to come around, the neurologist called his name. "He said 'Michael' and my eyes opened," Rice recounted. "They said that was a good sign [of no brain damage]."

"They say, 'This is not explainable,'" but Rice said he can explain it: God has more for him to do.

He said he would preach only the second morning service for the foreseeable future. Several within the church will fill in as will some from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's consultant pool.

The pastor said his new testimony has already had an impact on many who watched as the "Miracle" left the hospital.

"People saw the church in a different way, a positive way, as they rallied around me. 'What they saw im-



MIKE RICE

pressed them. Some of the nurses at [the hospital] talked about how my life, and how everybody responded, touched them and how they were challenged to get back in church."

The church is purchasing another defibrillator for its new multi-purpose building. "They're really not that ex-

pensive — about \$2000 — and you never know who's going to need it," Rice said.

Stevens believes every church or every place that hosts public gatherings should have a defibrillator.

"They're very easy to use and some of them are even automated," he said. "It may have saved his life."

CLASSIFIEDS

THE NORTHSORE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA) IS SEEKING RESUMES FOR AN ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST (DOM). Interested persons should visit www.northshorebaptists.net/search.

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Vision team to help implement new SBCAL recommendations

MCDONOUGH, Ga. (BP and local reports) — An 11-member vision team will study ways to help Southern Baptist associations implement recommended changes, including a new title and system-wide professional proficiencies for directors of missions (DOMs).

The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL) vision team will work to facilitate associations' implementation of a study team's recommendations that were adopted during the SBCAL annual meeting in June in Dallas prior to the start of the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The new vision team will report its findings to the SBCAL executive team in advance of the 2019 SBCAL annual meeting in Birmingham, AL, on June 9-10.

Included in SBCAL-adopted recommendations are the use of the title, "associational mission strategist (ASM)," for all DOMs and the adoption of cer-

tain foundational, relational, and strategic proficiencies for the job description.

Vision team leader Bob Lowman, executive director of the Metrolina Association in Charlotte, N.C., told Baptist Press (BP) the proficiencies are more important than the name change.

"The title is an important factor. The proficiencies discovered and recommended as well as the partnerships that can develop to help promote those proficiencies — those are really the more important factors to be emphasizing."

Among recommendations are six foundational, five relational, and six strategic proficiencies deemed essential for the ASM position.

Each ASM should also be called by God to associational leadership and be a person of character; spiritually mature;

committed to learning; emotionally intelligent; authentically vulnerable; a supportive coach; an active listener; a vision caster; a leadership multiplier (developer) and a consultant; among other proficiencies, according to the study team report posted online at www.sbcassociations.org/report.html.

"Our goal will be to take the findings of the study team... and do our best to implement those and encourage implementation of those findings in associations across the country," Lowman said. "We really want to take what was learned through the team's work over the past year and then translate that into action and vision and renewed mission on behalf of associations across the convention."

Partnerships between associations, state conventions, and SBC entities, as well as changes in the name and structure of the SBCAL itself, are being considered, Lowman told BP.



LOWMAN

LEADERSHIP

cont. from p. 1

committee headed by Steve Jackson, associational missions director for Lincoln Association in Brookhaven. Eight associations co-sponsored the event, with Lincoln Association serving as the lead. The other associations were:

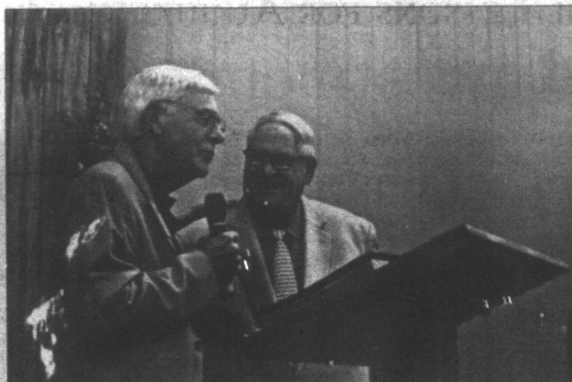
- Adams in Natchez.
- Copiah in Hazlehurst.
- Franklin in Bude.
- Mississippi in Liberty.
- Tri-County in Columbia.
- Pike in McComb.
- Warren in Vicksburg.

"I want to thank our state convention and the eight sponsoring associations that supplied the funding for 486 participants representing 78 churches to attend this training event," Jackson said. "Our steering committee served faithfully and worked together to reach our goal of providing a practical training opportunity."

"I also thank the membership of our host churches for their labor of love and marvelous hospitality. Convention board liaison Marcus Peagler provided valuable advice throughout the process."

Peagler said the opening plenary address by Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, at the conference dinner on the evening of Aug. 9 stood out for its simple "recipe" for building a successful church: Everyone in the church must take responsibility for sharing the Lord with the lost.

Peagler expressed his appreciation to Macedonia Church and First Church, Brookhaven, for hosting the 2018 conference and providing the evening meals for both days of the conference. "I am grateful to those churches



WELCOME TO KELLEY - Steve Stone (left), associate executive director for church growth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), introduces Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, at the Leadership U conference on the evening of Aug. 9 at Macedonia Church, Lincoln Association. Kelley and Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, were keynote speakers on the first evening of the two-day event. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

for the use of their facilities and for preparing the meals," he said.

The 2019 conference will be held Aug. 9-10 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Leadership U is supported by sponsoring associations, individual registration fees, and gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information, con-

tact ministry assistants Rene Edwards or Tasha Presson in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Edwards: (601) 292-3283. E-mail, redwards@mhcb.org. Presson: (601) 292-3284. E-mail, tpresson@mhcb.org. Both ministry assistants can be contacted toll-free at (800) 748-1651.

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Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Disciplined • 2 Samuel 24:10-25

After spending a quarter of a year surveying the book of 2 Samuel and King David's reign as King of Judah and Israel, it should not really surprise that it ends with David praying for forgiveness. "He (David) built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD was receptive to prayer for the land and the plague on Israel ended," 2 Samuel 24:25 (CSB). The plague ending here was no small event, because at the time it ended seventy thousand men had died from Dan to Beer-sheba.

Second Samuel tells of several times that David brazenly sinned and then came to sincere repentance. This sincere, heartfelt repentance seems to me to be one of the main reasons King David is identified in Scripture as a man after God's own heart. David was far from perfect or sinless but seems to have great desire to seek God's forgiveness and leadership toward Godly righteousness.

We have seen David publicly seek forgiveness for not fully respecting Saul, God's anointed King of Israel. David had refused to kill or even bring any bodily harm to King Saul when he easily could have, while Saul was seeking to kill David. David repented of disrespectfully cutting the fringe off the King's robe to show that

he could have killed him. David had publicly taunted King Saul by calling him out in front of his whole army, waving the tassels from his royal robe.

David had blatantly committed murder and adultery in the Bathsheba affair; only repenting when Nathan the prophet boldly challenged him. But when David did repent, he fully acknowledged that his sin was against God.

Remember David prayed "I have sinned against the Lord," 2 Samuel 12:13 (CSB). In Psalm 51 (CSB) verse 4 David emphasizes "Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight" then in verse 10 David begs "God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. . . [v.12] "Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit."

One of King David's more admirable trait was to listen to advisers when they tried to help him seek that willing spirit and find and do what is right. When Na-

than confronted David about using his power as King and commander of the army to murder Uriah, David listened and did not execute the prophet or reject his righteous advice. In the nineteenth chapter of 2 Samuel David listened to Joab's forceful advice to get up and leave the deep morning for his dead son, Absalom, and go out and encourage his soldiers or else risk the almost certain loss of their loyalty.

Once again in the last chapter of Second Samuel, we see David's human frailty crop

up. This time David arrogantly ignores sound advice from Joab and the other commanders of his army. David orders a census of the men available for his army. "Joab replied to the king, 'May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times more than they are—while my lord the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?'" 2 Samuel 24:3 (CSB). When a logical question is ignored rather than answered, it is almost always

because the authority knows there is not a reasonable answer. That is certainly what happened here.

The biblical historian records this statement rather than an answer from the King, "Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army left the king's presence to register the troops of Israel," 2 Samuel 24:4. This ill-advised and wasteful folly took nine months and 20 days. "There were eight hundred thousand valiant armed men from Israel and five hundred thousand men from Judah," 2 Samuel 24:9 (CSB).

"David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops. He said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, LORD, because I've been very foolish, please take away your servant's guilt,'" 2 Samuel 24:10 (CSB). David had an understanding that he was always better off in the hands of a loving, forgiving God. David said this about his faith in God, "I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the LORD's hands because his mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands," 2 Samuel 24:14 (CSB).

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.



Explore the Bible

with Don Hicks

Praise • Nehemiah 8:9-12; 12:27-31a

Throughout the Scriptures, people celebrated. God instructed the Jews to celebrate 3 very important festivals (Exodus 23). Celebrations were used to commemorate the goodness and mighty acts of God, such as the deliverance of the Jews in Esther (Esther 9:20-32). The Psalms are filled with celebration, especially with the use of musical instruments and singing. Jesus first recorded miracle took place at a wedding celebration (John 2).

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), therefore, our lives are to be characterized by joy. The entire book of Philippians, written by the Apostle Paul while in jail, is filled with joy (Philippians 1:4, 12, 25; 2:17, 18; 4:4). "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!" Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

Yet, there are times when Believers should be sad. Sin should make us sad (James 4), but forgiveness and renewal (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 1:9) should fill us with joy.

Nehemiah 8:9-12. Respond to God with both repentance and celebration. In the beginning of Chapter 8, the people had met and requested the reading of God's Word. Bowing and worshiping, they had joined Ezra as he praised the Lord (vs. 6). However, the more of God's Word that they heard, the more convicted the Jews became of their sins; and their praise turned to mourning and

weeping (vs. 9). Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Levites encouraged the Jews to cease their grieving and celebrate: "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God... Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" Vs. 9-10 (NLT)

In 2 Corinthians 7:8-13, Paul explains the difference between worldly sorrow and Godly sorrow. Godly sorrow leads to repentance—a heart change that "...leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow." Vs. 10 (NLT) Peter experienced Godly sorrow after he denied Jesus (Matthew 26:75). He allowed Jesus to forgive and restore him (John 21:15-25). Judas experienced worldly sorrow (Matthew 27:3) that resulted in his death. Once forgiven, Believers walk in the Spirit, living lives that are characterized by joy (Galatians 5:22-23).

Jesus explained that He came to give us abundant life, wanting our joy to be "complete." John 15:11 (NLT) As a nation, the Israelites were constantly having to repent of their sins. When they returned to God, He always forgave and restored them. And He instructed them to celebrate His goodness and His mercy. Jesus' parables ended with

celebration in Matthew 25:23 and Luke 15. Once repentance was experienced and forgiveness given, celebration began.

Nehemiah 12:27-31a. Celebrate and give thanks to God for His work. The wall was complete! After many days of hard work, hardship, and opposition, the people had reason to celebrate a completed task. Invitations were sent out (vs. 27), music and singing were arranged (vs. 27-31), and the people prepared to dedicate the wall with a grand celebration.

In Nehemiah 8:10, Nehemiah told the people "...Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your

strength!" (NLT) Throughout the Psalms and in the writings of the Apostle Paul a heart of gratitude leads to great joy and thanksgiving (Psalm 28:7; 95:2; 100; 107:22; 116:17; Philippians 1:3; Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). When we live of joy and celebration, the world is curious about the source of our joy. When we live above our circumstances, we testify that our God is Able.

God had used Nehemiah to unite the Jews and accomplish an incredible task, despite less than favorable odds. The people had reason to celebrate. Many times Believers are obedient in carrying out the will of God, yet, the results don't seem to be worthy of celebration. Any time that we are able to accomplish His Will, whether or not the results appear successful to others, we have cause to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving.

"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation." Psalm 100:4-5 (NLT) Believers can ALWAYS celebrate God's goodness. His unfailing love, and His faithfulness.

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.



Bible Studies for Life

with Lisa Bannister

GREEAR

cont. from p. 1

advocates, victims, counselors, denominational leaders, and legal experts and look forward to unveiling new steps that we as

Southern Baptists can take together," said Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

A news release announcing Greear's sexual abuse study group, which will be formed in partnership with the SBC Eth-

ics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the group's purpose "will be to consider how Southern Baptists at every level can take discernable action to respond swiftly and compassionately to incidents of abuse, as well as to foster safe

environments within churches and institutions."

Southern Baptists also have been affected by recent allegations of sexual misconduct. Over the past six months, allegations have surfaced at Southern Baptist churches, at least

one state Baptist convention, and SBC entities.

At the SBC annual meeting in Dallas in June, messengers addressed sexual abuse through motions, a resolution "on abuse," and questions to entity leaders.

Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, CLARA, honored Richard E. Bradley and his wife, Brenda, and Jason L. Sehon and his wife, Marsha, Aug. 5. Bradley has served 40 years in the pastorate and 11 1/2 years as pastor of Clara. Sehon has been youth minister at Clara for 20 years. Shown are Sehon, Marsha Sehon, Brenda Bradley, and Bradley.



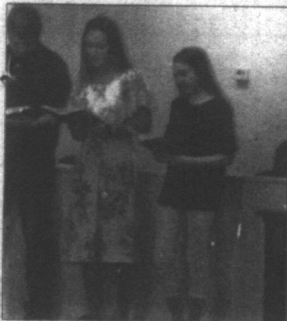
BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, held a baby dedication on August 5. Babies being dedicated were Levi Lee and Evie White. Pictured left to right are Rachel Lee, Levi Lee, Alexander Lee, Henry Lee, Delaney White, Michelle White, Evie White, Brian White and Dillon White. Gary Rivers, pastor.



Led by **JACKSON COUNTY** associational missions director Philip Price (right), a team of Jackson County Baptists responded to an appeal for mud-out assistance after a major flood along the Rio Grande River caused significant damage in Westlaco, Texas. Answering the call for help were (from left) Stan Aycock and Chris Drury (FBC Gautier), Raul and Mimi (Westlaco homeowners), Vicki Hilbourne (Wade BC), Charles Pinion and Tim Outland (FBC Gautier), and Price.



COUNTY LINE CHURCH, OVETT, had a deacon ordination Aug. 5. Shown are Rudolph Adams, new deacon Eric Tisdale, former pastor Matt Martin, new deacons Lee Scarbrough and Bobby Robinson, and Billy Sanders.



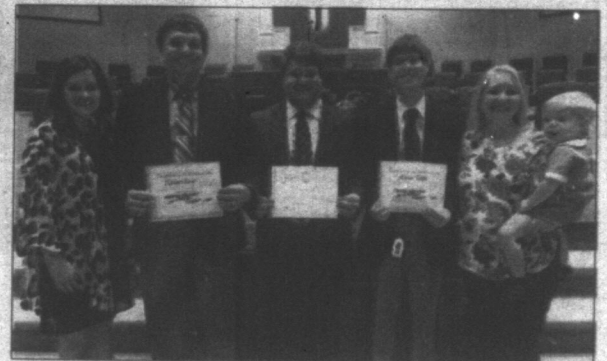
The youth of **LANTRIP CHURCH, BRUCE,** led in Sunday School and worship.



FIRST CHURCH, QUITMAN, celebrated 175 years of ministry with over 500 people attending including many former staff members.



A mission team from **CORNERSTONE CHURCH, GREENVILLE,** recently returned from its third mission trip to Hilltop Church, Lower Brule, S. Dakota. The group conducted VBS, Bible studies, ministered to the Sioux children on the reservation, and did renovations and handyman work in the church and parsonage.



INGOMAR CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, ordained Dillon Clark and Zack Cobb as deacons and licensed Chris McCluskey to the ministry Aug. 12. Shown are Katie Clark, Clark, McCluskey, Cobb, and Amanda Cobb holding son Conner. Terry Cutrer, pastor.



Fifteen youth and four adults from **GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG,** participated in a church building ministry in Campbellsville, Ky.



The 1st - 3rd grade children from **FIRST CHURCH, WINONA,** enjoyed summer camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat July 2 - 4.